Orders ſet downe and allowed by the Lordes of her Maieſties priuie counſell, and appoynted to be put in print for her Maieſties ſeruice: concerning the Poſtes of this Realme in generall, preſently, or hereafter to be apointed. At Weſtminſter the fourteenth of Ianuary. 1583.

FOr the auoyding of ſundry inconueniences happening by the ouergreat libertie of late vſed in riding poſte, and for the eaſing of diuers her Maieſties good ſubiects, greatly complayning to haue bene thereby oppreſſed, & for ſundrie other good conſiderations, the Lords of her Maieſties moſt honourable priuie Counſel, haue ſet downe and eſtabliſhed theſe orders following, ſtraightly charging and commaunding in her Maieſties name and behalfe, aſwel the Maſter of the Poſtes, as all other Juſtices of the peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Conſtables, Headboroughes, and all other perſons whatſoeuer, to ſee the ſame duely obſerued and kept in al places, as they and euery of them tender her Maieſties ſeruice, and at their perils wil anſwere to the contrary.

Inprimis, if any man hauing the place & name of an ordinary Poſte, ſhall not reſide and dwell vpon the ſame charge himſelfe in perſon, but execute the ſame by a Deputie, the Maſter of the poſte ſhall forthwith remoue him, and take order for the placing of a ſufficient man in his roome.

Item, that it ſhall not be lawfull for any man ryding in poſt by commiſſion, to take his horſes of any man, but of the ordinarie and ſtanding poſtes, or at their appointment: whoſe commiſſion ought to bee ſigned eyther by her Maieſtie, three of her highneſſe counſel, the Lorde Treaſurour of England, the Earle Marſhall of England, the Lord gouernour of Barwicke or his deputie, the Lord preſident of the North or his deputie, the Wardens of the Northen marches, her Maieſties Secritarie, & the maſter of the Poſtes.

Item, that euery one ſo ryding poſte by commiſſion for her Maieſties ſeruice and affaires, ſhal pay one pennie halfe pennie the mile, but whoſoeuer vpon any buſines vrgent ſhal be occaſioned to ryde in poſte without comiſſion, he ſhalbe likewiſe horſed by the ſtanding poſte of the place or by his appointment. And of euery ſuch, for their reliefe, it ſhalbe lawfull for the poſte to take after the rate of two pence the myle.

Item, to this ende, euery poſt ſhall be bounde to keepe a faire paper booke wel bound, to regiſter the names of all men ſo riding in poſt, with the number of their horſes, and date of the commiſſion, as well without commiſſion as with commiſſion.

Item, if in caſe that currers ſhall come ſo thicke or in ſuch number, that the poſtes owne furniture ſhall not bee able to ſuffice: then it ſhall be lawfull for him to take vp, or appoint ſuch as haue horſes to hire, to ſupply his want: And to this end he ſhalbe aſſiſted by the Maiors, Conſtables, & other officers, taking in thoſe caſes for the hire of thoſe horſes, as the poſtes themſelues are wont to doe for their owne.

Item, that no man riding in poſte, ſhall ride without a guide which ſhall blowe his horne, ſo oft as he meeteth companie, or paſſeth through any towne, or at the leaſt thrice euery mile.

Item, that all her Maieſties poſtes may the better attende vpon their charges and offices, and faithfully performe the dayly ſeruice thereto belonging, her Maieſties pleaſure is, that they be exempted from all attendance at aſſiſes, ſeſſions, enqueſts and muſters.

Item that no packets or letters ſhall be ſufficient warrant or authoritie to conſtraine the poſtes to runne with them in poſte, except they be directed for her Maieſties affayres, and ſhal be ſigned either by her Maieſtie, her priuie Counſell, or any of the perſonages authoriſed and aboue named.

Item that euery poſte doe dayly obſerue the orders ſometimes ſet downe by her Maieſties connſell for expedition of letters ſent in her Maieſties affaires, viz. that they ride in ſommer, accounting from the Annunciation of our Ladie to the feaſt of Saint Michael the Archangell, ſeuen miles the houre, and in the winter, which is the reſt of the yeere, fiue miles the houre, as the way ſhall fall out, whereby the poſtes doing their dueties, the packet may be caried in ſommer betweene London and Barwicke in fortie two houres, and in winter in threeſcore.

Laſtly it is hereby cõmaunded, that from henceforth, if any hackney man, Oſtlers, Tapſters or others, ſhall contrary to this order, directly or indirectly cary packets, or ſerue any horſes with a guid or a horne, without the conſent and priuity of the ordinary Poſt of the place, that then the Officer or Officers of the place, or the next Juſtice of the peace ſhal commit the ſame perſon or perſons to priſon, there to abide vntil they haue put in ſufficient bond and ſurety vnto the ſayd Poſte, for the keeping and obſeruing of theſe orders in time to come.

All which aforeſaid orders, her Maiesty ſtraightly chargeth & commauudeth all Juſtices of the peace, Maiors, Shiriffes, Bayliffes, Conſtables, Head boroughs, and al other her Officers and Seruantes, to ſee obſerued, as farre as in them ſhall lye, and to be ayding and aſſiſting vnto her ſayde ordinary Poſtes for the due execution of the ſame, as they tender her Maieſties ſeruice, and at their perilles will aunſwere to the contrary.

Laſtly, becauſe that through the ouer great liberty of riding in poſte, many inconueniences fall out, through the hackney men in Kent, it ſhalbe lawful for the L. Warden of ỹ cinque portes, and the Mayſter of the Poſtes, to take order with the Poſtes betwene London and Douer in that behalfe.

God ſaue the Queene.

T. Bromley. Canc. *W. Burghley.* *E. Lyncoln.*
F. Bedford. *R. Leyceſter.* *C. Howard.* *H. Hunsdon.*
F. Knoles.
C. Hatton, *F. Walſyngham.*

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